

Utah's Reliance on Coal

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Just how reliant are we on Utah's coal mining industry? The answer is in the numbers.

Utah ranks twelfth in U.S. coal production, producing around 26 million short tons in 2006. We're about 90 percent coal-based. That's nearly 40 percent above the national average in terms of our reliance on the energy source.

The majority of that goes towards electricity. According to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, there are 10 mines in the state, employing about 2,000 workers.

Revenues in 2007 are reaching 622 million dollars.

In 2006, 90 percent of electricity generated in Utah came from coal. Coal fired power is one of the cheapest of all resources...but also one of the dirtiest and least efficient.

That's what sparked Alexander Lofft, founder of lesscoal-dot-com, to circulate a petition asking billionaire Warren Buffett to cut Rocky Mountain Power's dependence on coal-generated electricity.

If you'd like to sign the petition go to www.lesscoal.com.